**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**ABSTRACT**

Mines and Geology – Report on quarry leases held by Sri B.M.J. Apparao for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 28.940 hect., in Sy.No.96 of Erukunaidupalem Village and Smt. P.Gnaneswari for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 38.000 ha in Sy.No.73 of Erukunaidupalem Village of Sabbavaram Mandal, Visakhapatnam District – Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, (Under suspension)– Departmental Proceedings under Rule -20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Articles of charges – Issued.

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**Industries & Commerce (Vigilance) Department**

G.O. Rt. No.53 Dated:25.02.2022

Read the following:

1.From the JD, O/o the DMG, Ibrahimpatnam Lr.No.5024955/EQR/2021-22, dt.30.09.2021.
2. Physical file received from the O/o the DMG, dt.08.10.2021.
3. From the DMG, Proceedings No.8974/E1/2008, dt:21.10.2021
4. From DMG, Letter No.5024955/E-Vg/2021 dt:05.11.2021.
5. G.O.Rt.No.46, Ind.&Com.(Vig.)Dept. dt:25.02.2022

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**ORDER:-**

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, the then Asst. Geologist, presently working as Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Banaganapalli (Under suspension) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charge (Annexure-I) and the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed(Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of oral by whom the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure III &IV).

3. Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, the then Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam, is directed to submit her written statement of defense within ten days of the receipt of this order and also state whether he desires to be heard in person.

4. She is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, the then Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam is further informed that if she does not submit her written statement of defence on or before the date specified in para 3 above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1991 or orders/ directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against her ex-parte.

6. Attention of Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, the then Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further her interests in respect of matters pertaining to her service under Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be

**(P.T.O)**

presumed that she is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, the then Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Viskhapatnam, (w.e, Annexures-I to IV) through the Director of Mines And Geology Department, Vijayawada (with a request to serve the order on the individual and send the served copy with dated signature to Government).

The Director of Mines & Geology, B Block (Vth and VIth Floors), Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Krishna District.

**Copy To**

The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi.

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//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

K. Roopa
SECTION OFFICER

**ANNEXURE-I**

**ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. B. VIJAYA LAKSHMI, THE THEN ASST. GEOLOGIST, O/O ASST. DIRECTOR OF MINES & GEOLOGY, VISAKHAPATNAM**

That, Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, while working as Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam, the following irregularities have taken place:

Charge-I:

That, Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam failed to bring the conditions laid down by the DDM&G, Visakhapatnam in the Quarry lease grant orders of Sri B.M.J. Apparao, for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 28.940 hect., in Sy.No.96 of Erukunaidupalem Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, Visakhapatnam District, to the notice of the ADM&G, Visakhapatnam at the time of execution of the lease deed and issuance of work orders.

Further, issued transit permits to the lease holder without AMP, Environmental clearance and CEF, CFO.

Charge-II:

That, Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam failed to bring the conditions laid down by the DDM&G, Visakhapatnam in the Quarry lease grant orders of Smt. P. Gnaneswari, for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 38.000 Hect., in Sy.No.73 of Erukunaidupalem Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, Visakhapatnam District, to the notice of the ADM&G, Visakhapatnam at the time of execution of the lease deed and issuance of work orders.

Further, issued transit permits to the lease holder without AMP, Environmental clearance and CEF, CFO.

Thus, Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam by her above mentioned acts failed to take all possible steps to ensure the integrity and devotion to duty of his subordinate who is under control and authority and thereby contravened Rule 3 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

## ANNEXURE-II

## STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. B. VIJAYA LAKSHMI, THE THEN ASST. GEOLOGIST, O/O ASST. DIRECTOR OF MINES & GEOLOGY, VISAKHAPATNAM.

That, Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, while working as Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam has failed to apprise the conditions laid down in the grant orders issued by the DDM&G, Visakhapatnam to her higher Authorities. The details are as follows:

| S. No. | Details of the ADM&G, Visakhapatnam Proposal | Details of Grant orders |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Recommended for grant of Quarry Lease to Sri B.M.J. Apparao, for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 28.940 hect., in Sy.No.96 of Erukunaidupalem Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, Visakhapatnam District, vide File No.4414/Q/2011, dt:26.09.2016. | The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, vide Pro. No.4237/QIV/2016, dt:13.10.2016. |
| 2 | Recommended for grant of Quarry Lease to Smt. P. Gnaneswari, for Rough stone & Gravel over extent of 38.000 Hect., in Sy.No.73 of Erukunaidupalem Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, Visakhapatnam District, vide File No.4413/Q/2011, dt:26.09.2016. | The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, vide Pro. No.4236/QIV/2016, dt:13.10.2016. |

The following rules and circulars were in force at the time of grant of Quarry leases to Sri B.M.J. Apparao and Smt P. Gnaneswari:

1. As per MoEF Notification S.O.2731 (E), Dt:09.09.2013 under column 4 it has been mandated that < 50 Ha of mining lease area in respect of minor minerals mine lease need to obtain Environmental Clearance.
2. Instructions of the DM&G vide Cir Memo No.911/P/2014, Dt:21.02.2015 to all the DDM&G's and ADM&G's in the State.
3. The MoEF GoI, vide Notification No.141(E), dt.15-01-2016 have constituted District Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities for speedy disposal of Environmental Clearances.
4. The Government of India guidelines for constitution of District Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities and other guidelines for issue of Environmental Clearances for Minor Mineral leases for an extent of less than 5.000 Hectares etc., and Mining Plan has become a pre-requisite for obtaining Environmental Clearance.
5. The GoAP vide G.O.Ms.No.56, Ind. & Comm. (M.II) Dept., dt.30-04-2016 has amended APMMC Rules, 1966, duly inserting the Rule 7 (A)(ii). The true extract of Rule 7(A)(ii) of APMMC Rules, 1966 is as follows:

   *"Mining Plan shall be prepared by a Recognized Qualified Person (RQP) in accordance with in Form-T for Minor Minerals other than Granite and Marble and submit to the authority authorized in this behalf for approval duly paying an amount of Rs.1,000/- towards processing fee."*

6. The DMG, vide Circular Memo No.38236/P1/2009 dt.06.07.2010 has issued instructions that co-ordinates for the surveyed and demarcated area may be recorded on the sketch with proper indexing for all angular bearings and any other structure located in the vicinity.

All the above-mentioned rules shall apply to Sri B.M.J.Apparao and Smt P. Gnaneswari as the quarry leases were granted on 13.10.2016 after the publication of above mentioned G.O.Ms.No. 56, Industries and Commerce (M.II) Department, dt.30-04-2016 & MoEF, GoI, Notification No.141(E), dt.15-01-2016.

The Asst. Geologist, while processing the file, not apprised the conditions laid down by the DDM&G, Visakhapatnam, in the grant orders issued vide Pro. No.4414/Q/2011, dt:01.12.2016 for the quarry lease held by Sri B.M.J. Appa Rao and vide Pro No.4413/Q/2011, Dt:09.01.2017 for the quarry lease held by Smt P. Gnaneswari. As such, the grant orders were executed by the ADM&G, Visakhapatnam and permitted the lease holders to conduct quarrying operations. This is in violation of the procedure mandated vide MoEF Notification S.O.2731 (E), Dt:09.09.2013, DM&G vide Cir Memo No.911/P/2014, Dt:21.02.2015 and Rule 7(A)(ii) of APMMC Rules, 1966 and DMG vide Circular memo no.38236/P1/2009 dt.06.07.2010.

i. Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, while working as Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam issued permits on 21.10.2017 to Sri B.M.J. Appa Rao for Gravel and without obtaining Environmental clearance, CFE & CFO.

ii. Smt. B. Vijaya Lakshmi, while working as Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam issued permits on 21.10.2017 Smt P. Gnaneswari in different spells for Gravel without obtaining Environmental clearance, CFE & CFO.

Thus, the Government Servant by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rule 3 (1) (2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, the Government Servant has therefore rendered himself liable for departmental action for major penalty for his misconduct.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

## ANNEXURE-III

**DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:-**

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|---|---|
| 1. | The MoEF Notification S.O.2731 (E), Dt:09.09.2013. |
| 2 | The Director of Mines & Geology, Circular Memo No.911/P/2014, Dt:21.02.2015. |
| 3. | The EC's Notification No.141(E), dt.15-01-2016. |
| 4. | The GoAP G.O.Ms.No.56, Ind. & Comm. (M.II) Dept., dt.30-04-2016 |
| 5. | The DMG, Circular Memo No.38236/P1/2009 dt.06.07.2010. |
| 6. | The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam Pro. No.4237/QIV/2016, dt:13.10.2016. |
| 7. | The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam Pro. No.4236/QIV/2016, dt:13.10.2016. |
| 8. | Details of dispatch permits issued to Sri B.M.J. Apparao. |
| 9. | Details of dispatch permits issued to Smt. P. Gnaneswari. |

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

## ANNEXURE-IV

**List of Witnesses:**

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|---|---|
| 1. | Sri Ch. Surya Chandra Rao, Deputy Director of Mines & Geology(FAC), Visakhapatnam. |
| 2. | Sri S.P.K. Malleswara Rao, Asst. Geologist, O/o Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Visakhapatnam. |

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT